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Welcome to
"Unveiling of Nepal's Climate Laws & Policy Landscape
and
Celebration of 20th National Social Audit"

Date: 5th of June, 2024
Kathmandu, Nepal

COMMUNIQUE

5th June 2024

Prepared By:
Impact Evaluation Unit

Brief Overview

ActionAid is a leading international development organization founded in 1972, working with over 15 million people to promote social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication. In Nepal, ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN) focuses on fighting poverty and social injustice through a human rights-based approach. We collaborate with people living in poverty, their communities, organizations, and movements. As pioneers in conducting Social Audits, we began organizing them at the community level in 2002 and expanded to the national level in 2004. AAIN conducts a National Social Audit to promote good governance, accountability, and transparency in its programs and finances.

This year, AAIN successfully conducted “Unveiling Nepal's Climate Laws & Policy Landscape and Celebrating the 20th National Social Audit” on June 5. The event was attended by 221 participants, including representatives from various national and international organizations, government officials, media, and board members.

Event Highlights:

To celebrate World Environment Day, AAIN initiated discussions on the urgent need for climate justice, the importance of related policies, and existing policy gaps. As an organization dedicated to advocating for marginalized and vulnerable communities, AAIN amplifies their voices and calls for action to address the systemic inequalities worsened by climate change. The climate change session featured fruitful and productive discussions.

AAIN also shared key highlights of the new Country Strategy Paper (CSP) VI and the key achievements and financial status of 2023.

Climate Discourse

Mr. Padam Bahadur Shrestha, an advocate, discussed the current acts, rules, and regulations of the Nepal government, highlighting gaps, challenges, and necessary amendments. He pointed out the lack of explicit references to climate change and the ambiguity in implementation, posing a critical question to the audience about the need for appropriate legislation regarding climate change.

The discussion brought forward several key points: legislation and policies should prioritize the needs of those most affected by climate change, including vulnerable, marginalized, and impoverished communities; education and awareness about climate change are essential; there is a need to learn from countries with effective climate change policies, such as the Philippines; countries contributing significantly to climate change should be involved in these discussions; and a sustainable development model is necessary.

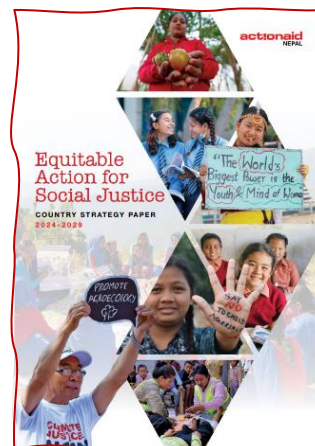


Ms. Rama Koirala, Parliament Representative, called for unity in combating climate change, emphasizing collective action beyond government efforts and highlighting the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, especially women in rural areas. Ms. Saloni, Ex Member of National Planning Commission, stressed the importance of including lower-class and grassroots leaders in policy development and the need for parliamentarians to be educated on gender and rights-based

climate issues. Ms. Usha Jha pointed out the challenges in implementing existing climate policies, calling for their consolidation and simplification, with a focus on addressing domestic issues before engaging with larger polluting countries.

CSP VI Launch

Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, Executive Director (ED) of AAIN, launched the new Country Strategy Paper (CSP) VI for 2024-2029, titled "Equitable Action for Social Justice." Emphasizing transparency and public availability for future evaluation, this CSP is developed through extensive network discussions and suggestions. It focuses on advancing women's rights and justice, improving public education, and building community resilience, all underpinned by principles of women's leadership, localization, and accountability. Responding to previous critiques about campaign visibility, the ED highlighted two key campaigns: climate justice and decent work. To measure impact, the organization will focus on Rights, Redistribution, and Resilience, ensuring clear progress over the next five years.



Celebratory Words from General Secretary

Mr. Arthur Larok, the Secretary General of ActionAid International, shared a celebratory message via video clip, commemorating AAIN's 20th Social Audit and the transition from CSP V to CSP VI. He praised Nepal for pioneering the federation's first climate justice campaign, emphasizing the importance of climate justice in the new CSP. He highlighted the local roots and global significance of this campaign, stressing the critical need to address climate change due to its severe impact on vulnerable communities.



Mr. Larok commended AAIN's unified approach in mobilizing staff, partners, youth, and communities, calling for collective action and solidarity to support their mission for a climate-just world.

AAIN 2023 Programmatic Reflection

Ms. Sujeeta Mathema, Executive Director (ED), assured the audience that AAIN is committed to considering and implementing constructive feedback that they are receiving. Highlighting the transformative journey of 2023, she noted significant changes felt by beneficiaries, evident by local level social audits. She emphasized that ActionAid's principle of "Saving Life Matters the Most"

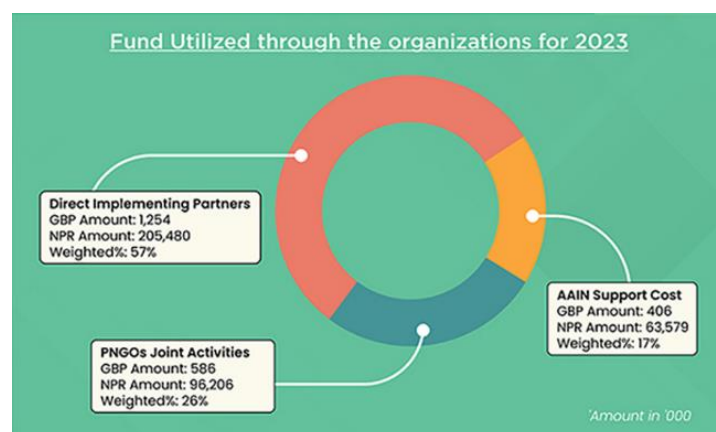
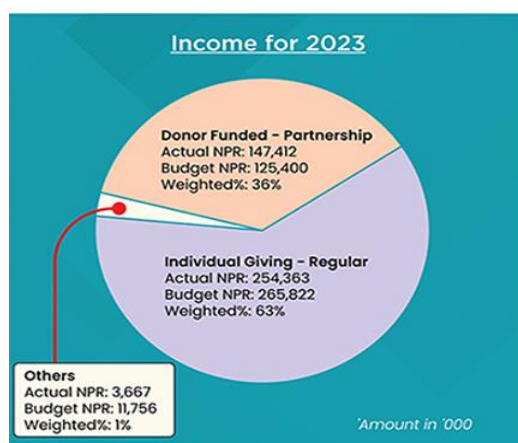


enabled them to reach over 10,000 earthquake survivors in the Jajarkot and Bajhang districts. AAIN's support promoted decent work for women, improved children's education, enhanced school infrastructure, and provided grants for women's enterprises, leading to tangible improvements in beneficiaries' lives. She shared stories of societal changes, such as women's leadership in the Inner Terai and open discussions

about menstruation, while noting areas for improvement like collective farming and identifying real right-holders.

Making Finances Transparent

Mr. Kumar Jung Thakuri, Head of Admin, Finance and Sustainability, shared detailed financial information about AAIN's income, expenses, and expenditure areas, emphasizing the organization's strengths in efficiency, transparency, and a zero-tolerance policy on fraud. Robust financial monitoring systems support these measures to ensure proper fund utilization. He highlighted AAIN's compliance with Nepal Accounting Standards (NAS), noting that 40% of partners began compliance last year, intending to achieve 100% compliance this year.



COMMUNITY VOICES

Women Leadership

Lila Chiti, Palpa (Ward Female Member, and Member of Namuna Mahila Adhikar Manch) shared her transformative journey, highlighting her growth from someone unable to take meeting minutes to a confident speaker on various issues. She expressed deep gratitude to the local partner SRDCN and ActionAid for their support in her development. Encouraged by her peer club members, she successfully ran for a position to advocate for women's issues and became a ward female member, attributing this milestone to ActionAid's support. She recounted stories of women in her community who have



become independent and self-sustaining and discussed the social issues they are addressing, emphasizing the ongoing efforts and progress being made.

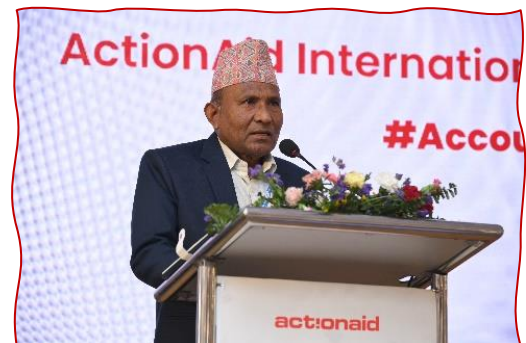
Youth Leader

Pramila Adhikari (Youth Hub Member, Climate Justice Campaigner) represented many youths and shared various youth-led initiatives in their community, such as collecting data during COVID-19 to identify vulnerable groups, distributing relief, and developing an emergency response team for flood seasons. They also introduced “Jhat-pat Jhola” known to protect important documents and sanitary pads during floods. Additionally, the youth are actively involved in raising awareness through art and drama and providing step-down training to different youth clubs. Reflecting on her own journey, she highlighted the skills she has acquired, including active listening, critical analysis, social awareness, and maintaining professionalism.



Government Partnership

Nanda Lal Majhi, SWC Vice President shared his appreciation for ActionAid, highlighting how the organization shares its work during social audit events, maintains financial transparency with the public, and amplifies community voices to a larger audience.



Closing Remarks

Dr. Nirmala KC, Board Chair of AAN, expressed her enduring motivation to work with ActionAid, describing it as a golden place for learning and action. Her experiences span various roles within the organization, from beneficiary to volunteer, and now as a board member, which has deepened her respect for ActionAid. She emphasized the importance of ethical integration in all activities and called for personal social audits to ensure that everyone acts as a responsible and accountable contributor to the betterment of society.



Suggestions and Feedbacks

- *Labours or labour law-related programs should be continued in the future as well.*
- *ActionAid should look for ways to incorporate the gaps in the law sector.*

- *ActionAid should work to continue for the betterment of school sector such as improving the syllabus etc. and try to include or target all three tiers of government in upcoming programs to sensitize them.*
- *Appreciated the Good works and interventions of ActionAid and Congratulated for the future.*

All the suggestions are considered and AAIN is determined to work on them in future.

Annexes: **Some Glimpses**



You can find all the photos of the event here: [Photos](#)

Some news clips

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